

8. Austin Clark (1932) reported and described a new subspecies of *Poanes massasoit* from Beltsville, Maryland - *P. massasoit hughii* (Clark). The Beltsville area lies in the Fall Line and on the Coastal plain.

When Clark published his "Butterflies of the District of Columbia" in 1932, he incorporated the Beltsville colony reporting the butterfly as *P. massasoit massasoit*. However, he later described this colony as *P. massasoit hughii*. Therefore, *P. massasoit massasoit* has not been published as an indigenous butterfly for Maryland.

For many years we have been collecting *P. massasoit massasoit* from the more northern parts of Maryland, including Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties. A possible factor of subspeciation may lie in the clines from Coastal Plain and Fall Line to the Piedmont areas.

The summarized data follow:

Species	Date	Locality
1. <i>Papilio c. pennsylvanicus</i>	V-15-58	Little Orleans, Allegany Co., Md.
2. <i>Celastrina ebenina</i>	IV-27-75	Dargan, Washington Co., Md.
3. <i>Strymon acadica</i>	VII-10-72	Univ. of Md. Campus, Balto. Co., Md.
4. <i>Strymon caryaeovorus</i>	VII-10-58	Grantsville, Garrett Co., Md.
5. <i>Hesperia attalus</i>	VIII-23-73	Liverpool Point, Charles Co., Md.
6. <i>Lerodea eufala</i>	VIII-23-73	Liverpool Point, Charles Co., Md.
7. <i>Poanes m. chermocki</i>	VII-12-62	New Bridge, Dorchester Co., Md.
8. <i>Poanes m. massasoit</i>	VII-15-54	Eklo, Balto. Co., Md.

## Notes on Maryland Lepidoptera No. 8:

### *Erora laeta* (Edw.)

Almost all members of the select *Erora laeta* club have agreed on one axiom for finding this rarest of species. "It occurs in the most unlikely place when least expected."

We have been researching the butterflies of Maryland for many years. A list is maintained of at least twenty probable species that we have been constantly trying to discover somewhere in Maryland. One of our prime targets has always been *E. laeta*, the rarest butterfly in the Eastern U.S. Every reported capture of *E. laeta* has been followed very carefully and every detail scrutinized with the hope of finding

some clue that would help us locate this species in Maryland. This butterfly is usually confined to the Canadian Zone Forest. The only Canadian Zone in the state of Maryland is in the westernmost part of the state - mountainous Garrett County.

On May 3, 1956, Harry K. Clench was collecting in Powdermill Nature Reserve near Rector, Pennsylvania. He was very fortunate to collect one male *E. laeta*. Rector is within twenty-five miles of the Garrett County Canadian Zone area of Maryland. With this new knowledge and renewed vigor we again plowed through the mountains of Garrett County to no avail.

On April 9, 1968, Dr. John Mason discovered a colony of *Celastrina ebenina* (Clench) near Dargan, Maryland. This area lies in the Potomac River valley not far from Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, about as far as you can go from Canadian Zone. In the spring of every year we work this area for *C. ebenina*. We usually wind up catching one or two a year, for they seem to be rare here. During the spring of 1977 we attempted to find *C. ebenina* in new areas other than the first discovered colony.

On April 14, 1977, we checked areas closer to the Potomac River. We came upon a small open dirt area beside the road. The dirt area was surrounded by climax forest and contained two small puddles which looked ideal for *C. ebenina*. We very slowly and carefully checked every inch because *C. ebenina*, being dark, is difficult to spot. On the far side of one of the puddles R.S.S. spotted a dark specimen just sitting. He instantly put his net over the specimen, for how many times do we try to make a sure identity before capture and by the time the identity is made the specimen is gone. This time the specimen was caught first and identified second. As we both rushed to see the sex of the *C. ebenina* we went into rapture at the sight of a fresh male *E. laeta*. R.S.S. was certain that if he had known the true identity he would have definitely thrust the net at least six inches into the ground.

We thoroughly searched the area that day and other days but found no more. It was a very tough area to collect. Aside from the small clearing where we caught *Erora laeta* the entire area is on a steep wooded slope.

On seeing the butterfly the first time in the net the wings were slightly expanded. The color seemed too dark for *C. ebenina* so we checked the underside. This is when we knew we had *Erora laeta*. However, the red spots on the bottom were very faint. Most of the *E. laeta* illustrations show ventral red spots and a bright blue butterfly dorsally. Our specimen was black with only a slight bit of blue showing.

Did we have a possible subspecies? At the National Museum of Natural History we examined the *E. laeta* series. The males were very much like ours. The bright blue specimens were the females and even some females were rather dark. With this in mind the collector should not be looking for *E. laeta* in the spring as a blue butterfly since seventy-five percent of them are dark.

We are still sure *Erora laeta* exists in the Canadian Zone of Western Maryland and hope to locate some in the future.

Some facts that could be pertinent are the associated species. Our *E. laeta* was flying at the tail end of a *Celastrina argiolus pseudargiolus* (Boisduval and LeComte). and with *Lycaena phlaeus americana* (Harris).

*Glaucopsyche lygdamus nittanyensis* (Chermock) were fresh while *Erynnis juvenalis* (Fabricius) were slightly worn. The spring zebra swallowtail *Graphium marcellus* (Cramer) were also worn. *Papilio troilus* (Linnaeus) were fresh. This flight period information should be a clue as to when to look for *E. laeta*.

## Notes on Maryland Lepidoptera No. 9: Seven new butterfly records for the state of Maryland

Our continued study of Maryland Lepidoptera is often greatly assisted by fellow collectors usually covering new areas or areas where we have not concentrated our collecting.

1. Mr. Elra Palmer of Baltimore kindly gave the senior author a few Maryland butterflies from his collection.

Much to the senior author's surprise there was a California Dogface Sulphur butterfly, *Colias elirydice* (Bois.) among the group. The specimen was collected on July 6, 1933 at Deal Island, Somerset County, Maryland. The butterfly was collected by a beetle collector who did not know Lepidoptera. He saw the specimen on a flower and thought it was unusually colorful, whereupon he took it for his friend, Elra Palmer, a butterfly collector.

How the butterfly got to Maryland is a mystery. One guess would be that the crysalis was on a plant bought in California, shipped to Maryland and he crysalis hatched upon destination.

This record is not published as an indigenous species but rather as a curiosity. (ed. it may be a convergent aberration.)